

**April 27-29, 2013**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

**The Detroit News: Powder found at Warren court may be talcum**

"Preliminary testing on a letter containing white powder opened at the 37th District Court by court employees on Monday indicated the powder didn't contain any harmful materials, a source familiar with the investigation told The News. Employees of the court, however, were evacuated Monday morning as a precaution after the substance was discovered."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Macomb Daily: Powder that forced Warren court evacuation wasn't dangerous, official says**

[Full story](#)

**WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Hazmat at Warren courthouse turns out to be mixture of baby, foot powders**

[Full story](#)

**WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: All clear given after HAZMAT situation evacuates 37th District Court in Warren**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Ex-Detroit Mayor Archer to receive Japanese honor**

"Former Detroit mayor and state Supreme Court justice Dennis Archer will be honored for his contributions in strengthening ties between the United States and Japan. The Consulate General of Japan office in Detroit announces Monday that Archer has been chosen to receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.... The conferment ceremony is scheduled for June 3 in Detroit."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Associated Press: Former mayor Archer to receive Japanese honor**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press.**

**The Detroit News: Worthy gets \$5.6M budget boost in settlement with Wayne County**

"Wayne County and Prosecutor Kym Worthy reached a settlement Monday that will add \$5.6 million to her budget. The deal, which settles a suit Worthy filed against the county, sets her 2012-13 budget at \$31 million. The prosecutor had requested \$34 million, but the Wayne County commissioners allocated just \$25.4 million."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Community court gives offenders a chance to do good**

"A new criminal justice program geared toward southwest Detroit is taking aim at taggers, litterbugs and others who commit low-level crimes by putting offenders to work in the community. Launched by Detroit's 36th District Court earlier this month, the community court gives defendants an option over fines or jail: Perform community service and earn a chance to have the offense dismissed."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Judge Damon Keith to be honored with Medallion of Merit**

"Judge Damon J. Keith of the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals will be honored Saturday with a 2013 Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit. The award will be presented in Washington, D.C., during Law Day 2013 by the Washington Bar Association and the Washington Bar Association Educational Foundation."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The MiLW Blog: 6th Circuit judge to receive high honor in D.C.**

[Full story](#)

### **Bay City Times: Bay County judge says crime 'unimaginably terrible' in sentencing of angel-named child molester**

"In sentencing a man with an angel-inspired name to prison for raping a child, a Bay County judge condemned the nature of the defendant's crime.... [Bay County Circuit Judge Joseph] Sheeran sentenced [Seraphin] Leonitus — who changed his name from Justin A. Groff a few years ago — to 18 to 50 years in prison, the maximum allowable. Upon release, Leontius is to be placed on electronic monitoring for the rest of his life."

[Full story](#)

### **Birmingham Patch: Scared Straight With Judge Kimberly Small; The 48th District Court judge presided at Berkshire Middle School and sent students a strong message about choices**

"It doesn't take long for the Berkshire Middle School cafeteria to get loud.... Yet it took even less time for 48th District Court Judge Kimberly Small to silence and command the attention of the crowd of about 100 students Friday as she entered the room in her black robe, ready to go to work."

[Full story](#)

### **Daily Press & Argus: Prosecutor celebrates Above & Beyond Award winners**

"... [Livingston County Prosecutor] William Vaillencourt also presented an award to the 34 members of the Court Appointed Special Advocate program, which is run through LACASA.... The Court Appointed Special Advocate program uses volunteers to advocate for children involved in the legal system. The program has 34 volunteers managing 29 cases that involve more than 50 kids."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Elder Law of Michigan to host two 'Call to Justice' award events in May**

"... The first ceremony will be a luncheon held from noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7 at the Glen Oaks Country Club, 30124 West 13 Mile Rd. in Farmington Hills. Wayne County Probate Court Chief Judge Milton Mack Jr., is this year's winner of the Judicial Award for Contributions in Law and Aging. His unyielding work protecting vulnerable adults, especially those with mental illnesses, have contributed to improved treatment for those who need it most."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Ingham County Legal News and the Oakland County Legal News.**

### **Detroit Legal News: Hamtramck offers citywide amnesty program in May**

"The City of Hamtramck and the 31st District Court are teaming up to offer a month long amnesty program titled, 'Make It Right In May'. This program will run from May 1 to May 31 and is designed to encourage individuals and businesses to 'make right' any outstanding violations they may have with the city or the court."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson judge authorizes, at county's expense, defense expert to testify in Michael Hamilton murder case**

"Circuit Judge John McBain on Friday authorized up to \$8,500 for an expert to testify for the defense in Michael Hamilton's murder case. Hamilton's lawyer, George Lyons, plans to hire a Lansing-based independent forensic psychologist to review Hamilton's psychiatric records, examine or speak with Hamilton, prepare a report and testify."

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Exploring problems in making the law work**

"The Polish American Legal Society (PALS) recently hosted a general meeting at the Polish Village Café in Hamtramck. Among those enjoying the evening were Michael Jones, court officer and guest speaker; retired Judge Richard Wygonik, PALS president; and Victor Lotycz, court officer and guest speaker [among others]."

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: Judge adjourns drunken driving case of jurist's girlfriend**

"The case of a woman accused of driving drunk with a Macomb County judge's two daughters in the vehicle was delayed for two weeks Monday for attorneys to work out a deal or allow an appeal. Judge Debra Nance of 46th District Court in Southfield adjourned the case of Brenda Conway to May 13, at which time the case could be resolved or subject of an appeal."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune.**

### **Midland Daily News: Appeal denied in Midland County meth case**

"The Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction of a Mount Pleasant man who was tried in Midland County for delivery and manufacture of methamphetamine. A jury convicted Chad Michael Moore, 26, of the crime in 2011 and he was sentenced to between 20 and 40 years in prison."

[Full story](#)

### **The Morning Sun: New security at Gratiot Courthouse starts in June**

"Gratiot County's sheriff will provide armed security for the courthouse beginning June 1. The contract with the current, unarmed security guards expires at the end of May. Commissioners unanimously approved the plan after Sheriff Doug Wright said he would need at least 30 days to hire deputies for the one point of entry at the courthouse."

[Full story](#)

### **The Morning Sun: Crime victims honored at ceremony**

"Isabella County Prosecutor Risa Scully at first thought this year's Crime Victims Rights Week theme, 'New Challenges, New Solutions,' was a bit generic. But the more she thought about it, the more she knew it was a powerful message that applies to Isabella County."

[Full story](#)

### **The Oakland County Legal News: Court chief says trial judges deserve more pay**

"The administrator of Michigan's court system is recommending two consecutive years of 3 percent raises for state Supreme Court justices, who make about \$165,000. But Chad Schmucker says he's actually trying to help the trial judges in Michigan's 83 counties. That's because their salaries are based on a percentage of what Supreme Court justices are paid."

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: State Bar Representative Assembly Endorses End To Age Discrimination In Judicial Selection, Skittish On Attorney Inventory Rule**

"After spirited debate, the Representative Assembly approved a resolution calling for an end to the constitutional prohibition on appointment or election of lawyers over the age of 70 to judicial office in Michigan.... The judicial age limit proposal was among the issues presented to the Assembly by former Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly on behalf of the Judicial Selection Task Force that she co-chaired with former Michigan Supreme Court justice James L. Ryan."

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Justice At The Boston Marathon Finish Line**

"A Virginia Supreme Court justice who ran his first Boston Marathon this year crossed the finish line just minutes before the first bomb blast, and discounted the significance until the second blast.... [Justice Bill] Mims said that once he was aware that the blasts were deliberate he was reminded of the mass shooting at Virginia Tech, the sixth anniversary of which took place the day after the Boston event."

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Ex-chief justice pens book about court's 'dark money'**

"The Michigan Supreme Court is corrupted by 'dark money,' secrecy and ideology. So contends former Supreme Court Chief Justice Elizabeth Weaver, a Republican from Glen Arbor, who's co-authored a book in which she alleges Michigan's highest court often rules on behalf of special interest groups that bankroll judges' election campaigns, as opposed to the merits of cases."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: George Weeks: Ex-Justice Weaver seeks commendable reforms**

[Full story](#)

### **Washtenaw County Legal News: Local attorney will become Schuette's chief legal counsel**

"Matthew Schneider of Saline will serve as chief legal counsel to Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette beginning June 1.... Schneider will succeed Richard Bandstra, who will retire from state service on May 31, 2013."

[Full story](#)